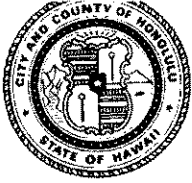


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HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

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For Immediate Release
August 16, 2007

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Fire Breaks Key to Preventing Future Threats

Measures will prevent future threats from wildfire and looks at ways to better equip rural North Shore fire station

Honolulu: Wildfires in Waialua which have burned over 5000 acres have prompted renewed focus on City efforts to prevent such fires from threatening residential areas and better equip the Waialua fire station with a support tanker.

Councilmember Donovan Dela Cruz will call upon the Honolulu fire chief to adopt rules (Bill 64) requiring owners of agricultural land bordering residential property to maintain a fire-break, area devoid of combustible material, to prevent threats posed by wildfires to rural communities.

"This will make our rural communities much safer from wildfires in the long run and prevent the kinds of losses that farmers like Al Santoro now face. These breaks should prevent the kind of evacuation that people on Hukilau Loop experienced," states Dela Cruz.

"This isn't the first time we've faced this threat, I think these breaks will help prevent damage and evacuations from future fires," says Jake Eng, resident of Waialua.

In addition, Councilmember Dela Cruz introduced Resolution 07-255 asking the Administration to expedite funding for the expansion and relocation of the Waialua fire station, as well as funding for a new fire tanker.

"These are necessary actions to help prevent and address threats posed by wildfires, and other emergencies, in our rural community. We've been waiting too long for a new station that can handle much needed emergency equipment," says Dela Cruz.

The Council designated over \$3.3 million dollars in the fiscal year 2008 budget for purchase of fire department equipment, including a water tanker and \$50,000 dollars to conduct planning for the relocation of the Waialua fire station.

For more information please contact Councilmember Dela Cruz at 547-7002, or 223-7498.